

**THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS**

**RESOLUTION ON THE EXPANSION OF SUMMER FOOD SERVICE  
PROGRAM**

**Resolution Summary**

Given the current concern of obesity rates in children, this resolution supports summer feeding programs as specified in S.790, legislation to amend the Richard Russell National School Lunch Act. This legislation would provide children in lower-income areas with the opportunity to continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, even when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast.

This resolution was passed by The Council of State Governments-Eastern Regional Conference Executive Board on March 31, 2007.

**Expansion of Summer Food Service Program Management Directive:**

**Management Directive #1:** CSG staff would need to send copies of this to members of the U. S. House and Senate agriculture, transportation and health committees and to the Secretaries of the United States Departments of Agriculture, Transportation and Health and Human Services.

## THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

### RESOLUTION ON EXPANSION OF SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

- WHEREAS**, the Congress of the United States has crafted S.790, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to permit the simplified summer food programs, to be carried out in all States and territories and by all service institutions; and
- WHEREAS**, this bill sponsored by Senators Lugar, Kennedy & Chambliss would expand The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) under the U.S. Department of Agriculture to all states; and
- WHEREAS**, the SFSP was created to ensure that children in lower-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast; and
- WHEREAS**, millions of children depend on nutritious meals and snacks are free or reduced-price meals and snacks at school for 9 months out of the year, just a fraction of them receive the free meals and snacks provided by the SFSP during the summer months; and
- WHEREAS**, SFSP is the single largest Federal source of funding available for local sponsors who want to combine a feeding and summer activity program; and
- WHEREAS**, currently only one-half of the states are involved in this program; and
- WHEREAS**, each day, more than 30,000,000 children participate in Federal school meal programs; and
- WHEREAS**, more than 1/2 of those children receive free or reduced price meals due to low household income; and
- WHEREAS**, the SFSP sponsors receive payments for serving healthy meals and snacks to children and teenagers, 18 years and younger, at approved sites in low-income areas. Schools, public agencies, and private nonprofit organizations may apply to sponsor the program; and
- WHEREAS**, research shows a direct relationship between healthy eating and academic achievement - studies have shown a link between low-income children eating breakfast and higher test scores; and

**WHEREAS**, the legislation would allow SFSP sites to serve up to three reimbursable meals (breakfast, lunch, snack or dinner); currently, a site can serve more than 2 meals only if it is a "camp" site; and

**WHEREAS**, this is not just an economic and social issue, but also a health issue; and

**WHEREAS**, recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys have made a clear connection between hunger and obesity; and

**WHEREAS**, the most nutritious foods tend to be the most expensive, causing low income families to choose cheaper foods that are higher in sugar and fat; and

**WHEREAS**, skipping meals to stretch the food budget dollar leads to obesity; and

**WHEREAS**, access to safe play areas and playgrounds in low income areas is difficult; hindering physical activity and exercise for growing children; and

**WHEREAS**, without intervention we are compounding the childhood obesity epidemic and creating a future generation of overweight and unhealthy adults; and

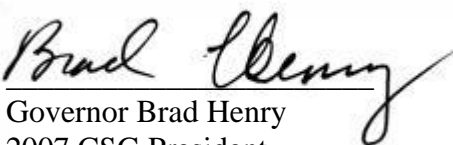
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The Council of State Governments representing state, provincial and territorial policy leaders urge the support of S.790 and make certain that all states and territories in the nation have access to this necessary service to low-income children in our communities; and


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of Congress serving on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the commissioners of agriculture of U.S. states and territories.

Adopted this 13<sup>th</sup> Day of June, 2007 at the  
CSG Spring National Committee and Task Force Meetings  
In Puerto Rico

  
Governor Brad Henry  
2007 CSG President

  
Representative Deborah Hudson  
2007 CSG Chair

